

nearly twice the rate of white women. This disparity is simply unacceptable and illustrates the importance of access to preventive health care services: cervical cancer is preventable through regular screening tests and follow-up and, when detected and treated early, it is highly curable.

In our country, we are incredibly fortunate to have the National Institutes of Health, NIH, which works tirelessly to improve the health of all Americans, and the NIH's National Institute for Minority Health & Health Disparities, NIMHD, has the specific mission of addressing minority health issues and eliminating health disparities. I am proud of my role in the establishment of the NIMHD, which supports groundbreaking research at universities and medical institutions across our country.

This critically important work ranges from enhancing our understanding of the basic biological processes associated with health disparities to applied, clinical, and translational research and interventions that seek to address those disparities.

Some examples of recent NIMHD-funded projects include exploring racial disparities in sudden infant death syndrome, SIDS, to inform health education interventions about safe infant sleep practices, which historically have been shown to be less effective among African Americans; evaluating a community-based intervention to promote follow-up among uninsured minority women with abnormal breast or cervical cancer screening results; and developing a culturally tailored lifestyle intervention to prevent diabetes among African American and Hispanic adults.

Enhancing our understanding of the complex disparities across racial, ethnic, and other minority populations and their specific risk factors will help us develop better preventive health care, reduce long-term health care costs, and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans.

Minority health disparities cost many of our constituents their health and even their lives, and they cost our health care system and economy, as well. A 2009 joint center study found that direct medical costs resulting from health inequities among minorities totaled nearly \$230 billion between 2003 and 2006. With indirect costs such as lowered work productivity and lost tax revenue added to the equation, the tab amounts to more than \$1.24 trillion.

We owe it to our constituents to do everything in our power to fight for affordable, high-quality health care for everyone. One's ethnic or racial background should never determine the quality of his or her health or the length of his or her life. This month, let us renew our commitment to ensuring access to affordable, high-quality health care for all Americans, and pledge to do everything we can to eliminate health disparities in our country.

TRIBUTE TO ROSE BAUMANN

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize my chief of staff, Rose Baumann, and to pay tribute to her hard work on behalf of the people of Minnesota as a member of my staff for the past 9 years.

For anyone who has met Rose, it will come as no surprise to you that Rose went from being a junior staffer in my office in 2006 just after graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College to my chief of staff just 7 years later. For the first 4 of those 7 years, Rose handled health care issues first as an outreach director in the Twin Cities and then as a legislative assistant in Washington. Rose approached every challenge with dedication and grace, regardless of whether she was helping a constituent access their Medicare benefits or talking with Minnesota physicians about health care reform proposals or organizing and executing a health care summit. Rose's intelligence, strong Minnesota work ethic, tenacity, and optimism always seemed to ensure success.

During the health reform debate, Rose played a critical role in helping me highlight cost-saving health care delivery models like the Mayo Clinic uses and worked to ensure we reward quality, not quantity, of care. She worked tirelessly to advocate for Minnesota's hospitals, providers, patients, and industries, and that hard work is reflected today as we watch these policies being implemented.

As my legislative director for 3 years, Rose advanced my legislative agenda while successfully managing 12 people and every policy area. My work on consumer safety, transportation, international adoptions, protection of our natural resources and cutting redtape at our Federal agencies all became law under Rose's leadership. Her natural ability, organization, and plain old hard work ensured that my legislative ideas became reality, while crucial events such as the confirmation hearing for Justice Elena Kagan were a success.

Rose has been a remarkable chief of staff. She is a natural leader who quickly adapts to any situation, no matter how large or small. Her enthusiasm has been a motivating force in my office, and her compassion toward the people of Minnesota and understanding of the problems they face has been instrumental to my ability to serve them in the Senate.

Rose Baumann—a proud native of St. Louis Park, MN—will soon begin a new professional adventure with new challenges, and I have no doubt that she will succeed. She is also getting married later this year, and I am so happy to see her so excited about this new phase of her life.

Mr. President, I hope you will join me as I say thank you to Rose Baumann for her 9 remarkable years of service to my office, the Senate, the people of the State of Minnesota, and the United States of America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TENNESSEE NISSAN STORY

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of my remarks at the Nissan plant in Smyrna, Tennessee earlier this week.

TENNESSEE NISSAN STORY

Thank you Randy, Gov. Haslam, Mr. Martin, ladies and gentlemen of Nissan.

When Randy invited me, he suggested I tell a little history of the Tennessee Nissan story in 5 minutes. And I am delighted to have that opportunity, and I would like to do it by putting a few human faces on the story that is usually told in cars and trucks and dollars and cents. And the best face is the one that Randy told me of his mother.

I remember sitting up with her one night and the boys had gone to their rooms, and she said to me she was sad. And I said, "Why would you be sad?" She said, "Because I've got smart boys and they will never find a job around here, and I will never see my grandchildren." Well as Randy said, two years later, here came Nissan.

There were many faces that had to do with the history of this company in the last 35 years. One was President Jimmy Carter. Two months after I was elected, I was at a White House dinner, and he said, "Governors, go to Japan. Persuade the Japanese to make in the United States what they sell in the United States." And at that time, Nissan made no cars and trucks in the United States, and Tennessee had almost no auto jobs.

So I took a photograph of the United States at night, taken at night from a satellite, to see Mr. Kawamata, the Chairman of Nissan. I showed it to him. He said exactly where is Tennessee? I said right in the middle of the lights, which is where you want to be if you're building a plant with lots of heavy things that you want to ship around the country.

I thought Tennessee and Japan were a perfect match. They had no cars here, and we had almost no auto jobs here.

In Detroit in 1980 at the Republican Convention, the country was in a recession. Everybody was gloomy. As I looked around at all the gloomy faces, I said, "You guys have so much more money than we do. You've got higher teacher salaries. You've got better universities. You have all these things because you've got the auto industry."

So I skipped a meeting with Ronald Reagan, came home to meet with Takashi Ishihara, the CEO of Nissan. He was a big bluff chief executive. He knew exactly the depth of the lock in Dickson County. And he knew he wanted 400 acres in Rutherford County, where the McClary's had a farm. So one of the faces of Nissan was sitting on the back porch with the McClary family, they were in their 70's, and persuading them to sell their farm to Nissan and then Mr. Ishihara wanted to get the next 400 acres, which was owned by Maymee Cantrell. She wouldn't sell because she promised her tenant farmer that he could live there for his whole life. And she said, "I am a woman of my word." We found 400 acres in Williamson County for her tenant farmer to live on, so Maymee could be a woman of her word and Mr. Ishihara got 800 acres, which you have about filled up, 35 years later.

The faces of Nissan include Marvin Runyon and the Ford team that came from Detroit to a different part of the country to start from scratch in a new environment. They knew they didn't have another advantage. That every state north of Tennessee did not have a Right To Work law, and if they could

work in the environment in which they could be competitive.

The faces of Nissan include the 300 Middle Tennesseans, who never once built a car who went to Japan and spent several weeks learning to build cars the Nissan way. It includes the governors, the local officials, and the legislatures who for 35 years, whether Republican or Democrat, have kept a consistent level of support for an environment that permits the workers of Nissan to produce quality products. It includes the faces of employees at places like Calsonic which was the first tier-one supplier, but now there are hundreds of them in 80 counties across this state, the wealth of Nissan, the family incomes, don't just belong in Middle Tennessee.

And, more than anything else, it includes the men and women of Nissan. It includes you. Those of you who proved early on that Tennesseans could not only build cars and trucks as of a high quality as those in Japan, but could build them better and produce the most efficient auto plant anywhere in North America.

So, look at those 35 years. Look at how Nissan has transformed Tennessee. Tennessee had almost no auto jobs. Today, one-third of its jobs in manufacturing are auto jobs. Then, Tennessee was the third poorest state. Today, Tennessee's family incomes have grown rapidly. Then, Nissan made no cars and trucks in the United States. Today, 85% of what it sells in the United States, it makes in North America.

But, the real story of Nissan and its transformation of Tennessee is the story of the faces of Nissan.

There's no better or more memorable face for me than the face of Lillian, sitting there late one evening in Melton 37 years ago saying that she was afraid that her boys who were talented would never have a chance to get a job around here, and she would never be able to see her grandchildren.

Think how proud she would be today.

Thank you.●

TRIBUTE TO STEVE PITTS

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Steve Pitts on his retirement after over 35 years of service to the Reno Police Department. It gives me great pleasure to recognize his years of hard work and dedication to creating a safe environment in the local Reno community.

Mr. Pitts stands as a shining example of someone who has devoted his life to serving his State. He earned his bachelor's degree in organizational studies from California State University, Long Beach, and later pursued his master's in public administration from Golden Gate University. He is also a graduate of the National Academy at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Leadership Program at the Center for Public Leadership at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and the Naval Postgraduate School Homeland Security Program. His career in police services began in the early 1980s, building all the way to the top of the department in 2011. Mr. Pitts dedicated his work to major case and homicide investigations, emergency management, and crisis intervention. He also built upon his skills in special weapons and tactics over a span of 25 years, as well as gained command-

level experience for over 15 years of his career. His unwavering work ethic is commendable, and his undeniable concern for the Reno community is greatly respected.

During his tenure, Mr. Pitts was promoted to deputy chief in January of 2008. He then served as interim police chief from March 2010 until March 2011, at which point he accepted the permanent position of police chief. As the leading voice of the police department, Mr. Pitts emphasized the importance of moving the organization toward what best benefitted the community. His positive legacy will be felt for years to come.

It is the brave men and women who serve in the local police department who keep our communities safe. These heroes selflessly put their lives on the line every day. I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Pitts for his courageous contributions to the people of Reno and to the Silver State. His sacrifice and courage earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly put their lives on the line to benefit others.

Mr. Pitts has demonstrated professionalism, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the highest standards of the Reno Police Department. I am both humbled and honored by his service and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan. Today I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Pitts on his retirement, and I give my deepest appreciation for all that he has done to make Nevada a safer place. I offer him my best wishes for many successful and fulfilling years to come.●

RECOGNIZING WESTCARE FOUNDATION

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize WestCare Foundation, WestCare, for its commitment to providing important services to Nevadans across the State and specifically for its dedication to our veterans, military servicemembers, and their families. WestCare offers programs to help with substance use disorders, mental health disorders, domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness, criminal justice, and HIV and AIDS, and provides additional youth and veteran-specific programs. The foundation is located throughout the State, including campuses in Las Vegas and Pahrump, as well as centers offering specific services in Reno and Las Vegas. Its commitment to improving lives across Nevada does not go without notice.

WestCare's veteran programs include assistance in transitional living and case management and offer support to veterans' and active military members' families. The foundation recognizes the increasing diversity of our veteran population and works to accommodate this change. The transitional living program provides separate facilities for both male and female veterans, as well as for their children. As our Nation's

military continues to adapt to a new force, it is particularly important services offered also adapt to reflect these changes. There are countless distinguished women veterans who have made sacrifices beyond measure and deserve nothing but the best treatment and services that address specific female needs. I commend WestCare for its commitment in accommodating all veterans and their individual needs.

WestCare also helps the families of those who have so bravely defended our freedoms. All too often, returning veterans and their families struggle with financial uncertainty. The foundation is a positive light in the Nevada community, working to change this reality by providing families with supportive services in times of need. WestCare stands as a shining example of an organization that has gone above and beyond to positively impact the lives of our heroes. It is important we thank not only the brave men and women that protect our freedom but also their families making so many sacrifices.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I know the struggles that our veterans face after returning home from the battlefield. Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals but also to ensure they receive the quality care they have earned and deserve. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation. I am very pleased that veterans service foundations, like WestCare, are committed to ensuring the needs of our veterans are met.

Today, I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing WestCare Foundation, an organization with a mission that is both noble and charitable. I am humbled and honored to recognize WestCare for its tireless efforts in helping our veteran community, and I wish it the best of luck in all of its future endeavors.●

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS 125th ANNIVERSARY

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I rise to pay special tribute to the General Federation of Women's Clubs. This year is very special as they celebrate their 125th anniversary tomorrow, April 24.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. It was founded in 1890 when Jane Cunningham Croly, a professional journalist, attempted to attend a dinner in New York City honoring British novelist Charles Dickens. Croly was denied admittance based on her gender. In response, she formed a woman's club for the purpose of educating women. In 1889, Jane Croly invited women's clubs throughout the United States to pursue the cause of a federation by attending a national convention. On April 24,